

Lombain

Landes (Ed.)

11.2009.03.02536

Artistes



Artists of Abraham Lincoln portraits

James Reid Lambdin

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection



Chicago Tribune

THE WORLD'S GREATEST NEWSPAPER



TRIBUNE TOWER • CHICAGO

Jan. 4, 1940

Dr. Louis A. Warren,
Lincoln National Life Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Dr. Warren:

Is it possible for you to send to the Chicago Tribune LIBRARY a copy of Lincoln Lore (No.246) for Dec.26,1933? Our copy is missing. Lincoln Lore No.452 carries the statement "Meserve Collection of Original Lincoln Pictures--Key Lincoln Lore 246."

We are interested to know definitely whether J.R.Lambdin painted a picture of Lincoln. The Dictionary of American Biography (Scribner) suggests that he did but there is no definite statement. Also, I should like to know who owns this portrait and where it is hung. Our encyclopedias: Americana, New International, Britannica, World Book, Nelson's, etc., do not carry articles on Lambdin. Thank you for any help you can give me on this question.

Sincerely yours,

Mildred A. Burke
Mildred A. Burke,
Research Dept. & Library

MB/CS

What issues of Lincoln Lore refer to paintings, photographs, pictures. We know about Lincoln Lore No.452, Dec.6,1937 and No.459, Jan.24,1938.

A very faint, light gray watermark of the Indiana Statehouse dome is visible in the background of the image.

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State of Indiana through the Indiana State Library

<http://archive.org/details/artisxxxxxllinc>

January 5, 1940

Mildred A. Burke
Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Madam:

In reply to your letter with respect to the Lambdin painting of Lincoln will say that you may find a likeness of it as a frontispiece in Emanuel Hertz two volume work on Lincoln.

A somewhat more difficult book to acquire is Rufus Rockwell Wilson's book on Lincoln portraiture. We are having copies for you a reference to this painting which you will observe is owned in Chicago by Oliver R. Barrett, c/o Cooke, Sullivan and Ricks, 122 S. Michigan Avenue.

We are attaching to this letter a more complete index to our Lincoln pictures found on Lincoln Lore number 542 and the one designated 246 which is out of print.

The copies of Lincoln Lore which deal with Lincoln paintings exclusively are as follows: Numbers 533, 528, 524, 505, 449, 439, 436, 424, 400, 392, 384, 375, 313.

Very truly yours,

IAW:PW
L. A. Warren

Director

Chlorophytum

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January 8, 1940

Miss Mildred A. Burke
Chicago, Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Miss Burke:

Enclosed you will please find the copy on the Lambdin painting and Lincoln Lore 542 which we neglected to enclose in the letter of January 5.

Very truly yours,

Secretary

LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE FOUNDATION.



JAMES READ LAMBDIN
AMERICAN: 1807-1889

61. *ABRAHAM LINCOLN*

Seen at bust-length against a brownish background and facing slightly to the left; wearing a black coat and plain black tie with turnover collar.
Inscribed on back of canvas, *Painted from Life at Washington, March 1863, J. R. LAMBDIN*

Height, 30 inches; width, 25 inches

Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865), sixteenth President of the U. S., was born near Hodgenville, Ky., the son of Thomas and Nancy Hanks Lincoln; self-educated as surveyor and lawyer, he became a member of the Illinois House, serving from 1834 to 1842. In 1846 he became a Representative, devoting himself to the study of law and achieving national fame in the slavery debates with Stephen Douglas. He was elected President of the U. S. in 1860, defeating Douglas, and devoted the remainder of his life to the expurgation of slavery and the preservation of the Union through the trials of the Civil War, which broke out in April, 1861. He was re-elected in 1864 and assassinated by Booth on April 15, 1865.

Painted from life at Washington in 1863

Collection of Elisha Schieffelin, New York

From Samuel P. Avery, Jr., New York

Gallery of National Portraiture, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts,
Philadelphia, 1926, No. 215



THE ONLY PORTRAIT OF LINCOLN SMILING



**REPRODUCED PAGE SIZE
IN FULL COLOR**

• Abraham Lincoln's portrait—the only one which shows him with a smile—will be reproduced, page size and in full color, as a special feature of the Roto Picture section of tomorrow's Chicago Sunday Tribune.

The original was painted by James Read Lambdin in March and April of 1863, before the unhappiness of war made Lincoln a man who did not smile.

For many years the original hung in Libby Prison museum. Recently it was taken from its frame and cleaned. By special arrangement the Tribune photographed it in color right after it was cleaned.

Tomorrow, for the first time in any newspaper, this painting will be presented page size and in full color in the Roto Picture section of the Chicago Sunday Tribune.

Antiques, Auction

A PORTRAIT of Abraham Lincoln, painted from life at Washington in March, 1863, by James Read Lambkin, is to be sold at auction, along with a number of other American historical pictures, the evening of Jan. 11 at the American Art Association-Anderson galleries, New York. Another portrait of unusual interest and considerable historical importance is of Col. Abraham DePeyster, mayor of New York in colonial days, painted by Everett Duyckinck (American, 1667-1727). The portrait has been continuously until very recently in the DePeyster family. Two other DePeyster family portraits of later date, painted by Charles Willson Peale, are also to go under the hammer, along with portraits of Thomas Jefferson, Nathaniel Rochester, founder of the city

A Lincoln Masterpiece

● Reproduced in its original colors on page one of the Picture Section of this issue is a portrait of Abraham Lincoln by James Read Lambdin.

THE MOST impressive Confederate victory of the Civil war was the battle of Chancellorsville, fought early in May of 1863. It was there that Stonewall Jackson, after outgeneralizing the Union commander, Joseph Hooker, lost his life.

From the day of this defeat of his army until the final triumph of the Union arms in 1865 President Abraham Lincoln is said to have been a man broken in spirit—a man who did not smile. Fortunate indeed it is, then, for posterity that James Read Lambdin painted the President's portrait prior to the calamity at Chancellorsville, for he was able, as the painting reveals, to capture for all time a trace of a smile upon the great man's features. Mr. Lincoln posed at intervals in the months of March and April, 1863, for the painting by Lambdin.

This portrait is among the outstanding ones of the Civil war President. In the opinion of Oliver R. Barrett of Chicago, its present possessor, it compares favorably with the Lincoln portraits by Healy, Mathews, and Carpenter. Rufus Rockwell Wilson in his "Lincoln in Portraiture," on the other hand, writes: "On most occasions Lambdin was easy master of his craft, but the real Lincoln seems to have escaped him. Nevertheless he produced an impressive portrait which claims a major place in any Lincoln gallery."

Lambdin was a painter of wide experience. In his old age he proudly pointed out that he had painted the portrait of every President from John Quincy Adams to James A. Garfield. He was born in Pittsburgh, Pa., in 1807 and was only 12 years old when he began to take an active interest in art thru the mediums of carving and drawing. In 1823 he studied in Philadelphia under Edward Miles, and the next year was accepted as a pupil by

Thomas Sully. Returning to Pittsburgh in 1826, he opened a museum at the age of 19 "to acquaint the west with art."

In 1828 Lambdin moved his museum and his family to Louisville, Ky., and for four years he traveled thruout the south painting. Among his distinguished subjects at this time was Chief Justice John Marshall, then nearing the end of his long and celebrated career. At the age of 30 the artist Lambdin was back in Philadelphia, permanently settled and making a name for himself in the world of art. For 20 years following 1845 he served as a director of the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. In 1858 he was appointed United States art commissioner by President Buchanan.

In addition to his major accomplishments as a portrait painter Lambdin worked occasionally in miniatures, which today are eagerly sought by collectors. He died in Philadelphia on New Year's day, 1889.

The Lambdin portrait of Lincoln hung in the old Libby Prison museum on Chicago's lake front from 1889 to 1899. Then for a short while it was exhibited in the American Military museum in Omaha, after which it was acquired by Charles F. Gunther, Chicago candy manufacturer, who died Feb. 10, 1920. Mr. Barrett obtained the painting about 25 years ago. He says it had not, previous to a recent cleaning, been out of its frame for many years—in fact, not since it hung in the old Libby Prison museum. It has not been reproduced since its cleaning until today. Previously, however, it was reproduced in the aforementioned volume, "Lincoln in Portraiture," and in a book by Emmanuel Hertz. These earlier reproductions were from a photograph taken thru soiled glass.

Artists - 1

1942-1943

